

A Note on Terminology

“Bio-Realism” and “biorealism”

The term *Bio-Realism*, as used throughout this corpus, was coined independently during the collaborative development of the framework documented in *Adapting to Existence* (Internet Archive, 2026). It emerged from thermodynamic reasoning: if biological organization constitutes a measurable deviation from the universe’s entropic baseline — as Ilya Prigogine’s work on dissipative structures demonstrates — then an honest philosophical framework must begin there, with biology as it actually is rather than as transcendent narratives would prefer it to be. The hyphenated, capitalized form was adopted throughout to distinguish the term as a specific philosophical designation.

It was only after the corpus was substantially complete that the architectural usage came to our attention. Richard Neutra, the Austrian-American architect, coined “biorealism” in his 1954 book *Survival Through Design* to describe what he called “the inherent and inseparable relationship between man and nature.” His framework argued that design had severed the human organism from its biological environment, producing sensory deprivation and psychological harm, and that architecture must restore this connection. The independent coinage — separated by seven decades and entirely different disciplines — is itself noteworthy. That two frameworks should converge on the same root term suggests it carries genuine semantic gravity: both take biology as primary reality, both resist the aestheticization or transcendence of the biological condition, and both are in some sense survival-oriented.

The divergence, however, is fundamental. Neutra’s biorealism is therapeutic in orientation: the rift between organism and environment can be healed through conscious design. The *Bio-Realism* of this corpus arrives at a structurally different conclusion from the same biological premise. The organism is not alienated from nature — it *is* nature’s anomaly within it. There is no design solution to thermodynamic reality. There is adaptation, accurately understood, or there is the consolation of narratives that do not hold.

The hyphenated form *Bio-Realism* is used consistently throughout this corpus to maintain the distinction. Both usages are legitimate within their respective disciplines. The convergence is documented here in the interest of intellectual transparency.